

# LEARNING FROM THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIMES:

**Global Security, Terrorism,  
and 9/11 in the Classroom**

**A New Curricular Initiative for Students in Grades K-12**





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Dear Educator:

The 4 Action Initiative, a collaboration of Families of September 11, Liberty Science Center and The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, is pleased to present a new curriculum, *Learning from the Challenges of Our Times: Global Security, Terrorism and 9/11 in the Classroom*. New Jersey teachers can visit <http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust> for NJ Core Curriculum Standards related to the lesson plans. All educators are encouraged to check there for updates and additional resources.

At the 4 Action Initiative inaugural conference in July of 2008, Governor Tom Kean spoke eloquently about the need to educate students about global security and the legacy of September 11th saying, "education is a must to eliminate these tragedies in the future and to educate all as to what happened on 9/11." The lessons contained in this curriculum were developed, piloted in over 60 New Jersey school districts, revised and refined by curriculum developers and the 4 Action Initiative team. While there are lessons for all grade levels, teachers should adjust the lessons for their classes, always taking into account the ages of their students, the potentially traumatic nature of some lessons as they refer to violence, terrorism, and the tragedy of the day (9/11). We urge teachers to be especially mindful of the needs of our youngest students (K-3). This curriculum transcends multiple subject areas with many action-oriented outcomes. We believe that students who engage in meaningful projects or give service enhance their own resilience and understand the value of being global citizens.

Classroom teachers and other educators are encouraged to give us feedback and offer recommendations through our website. In addition, please submit any student work that might be shared with others. This is a dynamic curriculum and your suggestions will allow us to continue to refine the lessons and curriculum guide.

Please visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/the4actioninitiative/>, for lesson plans, more information and links to resources.

Thank you for your interest in addressing these important issues and presenting the lessons in your classroom.

Sincerely,

The 4 Action Initiative

# Table of Contents

Teaching Guidelines	i-4
Acknowledgements	i-7
Additional Resources	i-10
Elementary School Lesson Plans & Themes	E-1
Middle School Lesson Plans & Themes	M-1
High School Lesson Plans & Themes	H-1

# DEDICATION

*This curriculum is dedicated to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks and their families, to those courageous individuals who gave service to others, and to teachers in classrooms that day, who became first responders for students throughout the country.*

*We also dedicate this work to the memory of Sally Goodrich, a teacher and mother who lost her son on 9/11. In a “moment of grace,” Sally realized that taking action was an affirmation of her son’s life. She built a school for girls in Afghanistan and provided educational programs for Afghan students. Sally’s husband, Don, is one of the co-founders of Families of September 11.*